

## BOOK REVIEW

**Handbook of Intermediary Metabolism of Aromatic Compounds:** by B. L. GOODWIN. Chapman & Hall, London. 800 pp. (1976). Price: £30.00.

This is essentially a source book of information and of references into this important area of animal and plant biochemistry. The first quarter of the book deals with the reactions aromatic compounds undergo and the enzymes which catalyze their metabolism. The remainder of the book is then taken up with an alphabetical catalogue of the reactions of individual compounds beginning with abarte, abrine and acacetin and concluding with xylene and yohimbine. Since one of the first reactions aromatic compounds undergo in animals is the introduction of a phenolic hydroxyl and since

many feeding experiments in both animals and plants have been with phenolic compounds, these substances inevitably dominate the book but a wide range of other structures are also included in all the various sections.

An enormous amount of biochemical information on enzymes, degradative pathways and on species variation in metabolism is provided here in an easily assimilable form. It is nicely presented and there is a high degree of accuracy as far as I could check. The only disappointing feature is that the references only cover the literature at the latest up to 1973 but we are promised supplements which will eventually provide a completely up-to-date coverage.

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